EPICA

THE SOLACE SYSTEM

The Solace System

music: I. Delahaye & Epica / lyrics: S. Simons

razor lights
on the path of progress
to gain new insight
lose control
give in to your senses
to reach brand new heights

when a grandeur of scenes
arrives with the night
revealing the author of fear
the reason why all of my virtues
are shut down and hollow
if the light that sinks in
is changing all shapes
and magic brought down to its knees
i will not be the one
to lose it all over again

we will take you to the mire
we will show you shattered rhymes

far from the distant shores
lies another paradise unlighted
unlock the hidden heart inside
see the wonder of my world with true transparent eyes
razor lights
on the path to progress to gain new insight

if you're trying to see when all lights have gone
a silhouette without a face
imprinting a vision that opens my eyes for creation
its identity will reflect what i see
control is the way to prevail
and lift up the shadows
that keep me from reaching the bay

shadows bring the night to life
anguish harbors depth of fright

far from the distant shores
lies another paradise unlighted
unlock the hidden heart inside
see the wonder of my world
with true transparent eyes
all that is real
you alone welcome
the other side

far from the distant shores
lies another paradise unlighted
unlock the hidden heart inside
see the wonder of my world with true transparence
deep within a forlorn stream
lies the wonder of the world in a true transparent dream

i make progress
i walk the path of self-mastery
let go of all agony

Fight Your Demons

music: a. van weesenbeek & epica
lyrics: m. jansen

Defy and comply
We will have
To take control
Sanguinary wolves
Will never abide
Never stay aside
We're at the mercy
Of the waves
If we keep denying our true nature
You will have to face your challenger

We stand and fight until the end
Turn your demons into shadows
We shall exhaust all that we fight
Fight your demons now,
Leave them no other way
Than to hide

Hide your darkest side
When our destinies collide
Our intrinsic values cry out for
action

Never stay aside
Only emptiness remains
If we can't get rid of our frustrations
The habit of judging someone
Tells you who you are

We stand and fight until the end
Turn your demons into shadows
We shall exhaust all that we fight
Fight your demons now,
Leave them no other way than to hid

So slow
So low
Face your fears

A vision from another life
Will change our world forever
Judging someone makes you face your challenger

We stand and fight until the end
Turn your demons into shadows
We shall exhaust all that we fight
Fight your demons now,
Leave them no other way than to hide

Harmful thoughts won't escape, fight until the end
Turn your demons into shadows
All judgment is madness, beat all that you fight
Fight your demons inside,
Leave them no other way than to hide

All will fall,
Stand tall
And fight your demons
Now

architect of light

music: a. van weesenbeek & epica
lyrics: s. simons

somnia, cum clamoribus
linquite corda plena pavoris
videte pompam horroris
paries scaenae perditorum

within the corners of a waking mind
awaiting the count
distant dreams are not too far behind
it is the architect of light
that's shown in the night
guides a passage through a sleeping mind's myriad dreams

somnia, cum clamoribus
linquite corda plena pavoris
videte pompam horroris
paries scaenae damnatorum

forever guided by the great design
in moonrise we drown
crystal circles will create a sign
tangled streams of endless energy
unseen enemies
a mosaic of insanity, a million fears

approximate the minds debate
in the night your eyes are blind
the wicked beasts are well disguised
my inner wounds will never heal
the dark of night has now arrived
within the corners of my life
lift up the shadows of the heart
prepare for what your eyes will see

what we cannot see
we should not believe

what lies beneath the gravity
we all see the architect of light
that pulls you down
what we cannot hear
we no longer fear
nothing is ever what it seems
we all see the architect of light
that pulls you down

as now devotion will unfold
take in the fear of truth untold
and now the diamonds are aligned
we'll wear jewels of the night

approximate the minds debate
in the night your eyes are blind
the wicked beasts are well disguised
my inner wounds will never heal
the dark of night has now arrived
within the corners of my life
lift up the shadows of the heart
prepare for what your eyes will see

what we cannot see
we should not believe
what lies beneath the gravity
we all see the architect of light
that pulls you down
what we cannot hear

we no longer fear
nothing is ever what it seems
we all see the architect of light

what we cannot see
we should not believe
what lies beneath the gravity
we all see the architect of light
it pulls you down
what we cannot hear
we no longer fear
nothing is ever what it seems
we all see the architect of light
that pulls you down

Wheel of Destiny

music: I. Delahaye & Epica
lyrics: M. Jansen

You will get demonised,
all actions have their price
choose well and carefully
we can not tolerate intractability
as you will see

Drown, but I'd rather hunt you down
tonight, we'll strike
know, that I'll never let you go
your pride, stands in your way

We have to bear the weight of truth
we have to deal with our own moral sense
that is how life has to be
let's spin the wheel of destiny

You cannot prove those facts, we'll cover all our tracks
choose well and carefully
if we can't obviate, that you will tempt your fate
you'll need to bleed

none will restrain us here, we'll drive a bargain now
choose well your enemy
and justice will be done, the righteous will prevail
we will proceed

Drown, but I'd rather you down
tonight, we'll strike
and know, that I'll never let you go
your pride, stands in your way

We have to bear the weight of truth
have to bear the weight of truth
we have to deal with our own moral sense
with our own conscience
that is how life has to be
how we need this life to be
let's spin the wheel of destiny

as we will bathe in silence, dreaming
you can keep going on
meanwhile the gravy train keeps rolling
we will not rock the boat

We have to bear the weight of truth
have to bear the weight of truth
we have to deal
with our own moral sense
with our own conscience
that is how life has to be
how we need this life to be
let's spin the wheel of destiny

We have to seek the source of truth
have to mind the source of truth
we have to face our sphere of influence
with our own conscience
that is what life means to be
how we need the world to be
let's change the wheel of destiny

Immortal Melancholy

Music: M. Jansen, J. van den Broek & Epica
Lyrics: S. Simons

Wander, there's no return
Keep moving on as the paradise burns
Leaving your trace in the sand
Harbor my soul for the final descent

Feeling alive, we are free in the silence
We have lived our lives,
No hope in your eyes to find

Join me, come join me
Dancing in melancholy
Join me, won't you join me
Enter this chapter, infinitely

Choosing to give in to fate
Standing together as death allocates
Sorrow evaporates
Now our ties are an endless embrace

Join me, come join me
Dancing in melancholy
Join me, won't you join me
Enter this chapter, infinitely

A union in life, breathing silence together
Walking the stairs that have led us this way
Thinking of how to return to the page
Now that our time's run out

Simone Simons - Lead vocals
Mark Jansen - Grunts, rhythm guitars
Isaac Delahaye - Lead, rhythm & acoustic guitars
Coen Janssen - Synths & grand piano
Rob van der Loo - Bass guitar
Ariën van Weesenbeek - Drums

Decoded Poetry

music: I. Delahaye, J. van den Broek & Epica
lyrics: S. Simons

watch as the world turns around, while you blink your eyes
time to awaken
abandon trivial laws you abide
they hinder fulfillment and purpose of life

crusading dreams, fantasies, reality

dark clouds will overthrow
a silver line will show
search for your destination, judgments fly by
decoded poetry lives in anthology
reveals severed visions of agony, secretly

imagine the face of the earth will lift up the veil
no more pretending
the only idols that fill you with hope
should not be the ones that will vanish in smoke

crusading dreams, fantasies

you are the one behind the wheel

dark clouds will overthrow
a silver line will show
search for your destination, judgments fly by
decoded poetry lives in anthology
reveals severed visions of agony, secretly

an inner war that weighs you down
take fate into your own hands
and face the fury burning within
this entity is your device

you have to pay for your sins
summon your mind and you will prevail in the end

tempus solum est quod nos possidemus
ut ad praeteritum recedamus, non fieri potest
diem carpere mandatum nostrum est

the present lives in you
memories created

venerate pedicate
the time to live life and realise

extend your mind, accept defiance
ipse facis consilia
chasing ideals bound to be ruined
persequere imagines optimas

dark clouds will overthrow
a silver line will show
search for your destination, judgments fly by
decoded poetry lives in anthology
behind severed visions hides agony, secretly

the will to survive

is stronger and thrives
a dent in our minds

we can be, we can see
everyone will fight to find their way

i'm here to survive
i'm stronger now and will fight
never hide

we can be, we can see
everyone will fight
to find their way

i'm drawn by the light
and will never run and hide

do not you believe in tainted trust
you're blinded by the light
the root of hate turns into dust

animus a quodam iuvatus
omnia effecit

Guest musicians:

Additional vocals
Backing vocals - Marcela Bovio, Linda Janssen, Simone Simons
Additional grunts - Ariën van Weesenbeek

Choir
Kamerkoor Pa'dam, directed by Maria van Nieukerken
Sopranos - Alfrun Schmidt, Annemieke Klinkenberg-Nuijten, Dagmara Siuty, Martha Bosch, Ruth Becker, Silvia Da Silva Martinho
Altos - Annette Stallinga, Annette Vermeulen, Cecile Roovers, Natascha Morsink
Tenors - Guido Groenland, Joost van Velzen, Koert Braches, Matthijs Frankema, René Veen
Basses - Allard Veldman, Andreas Goetze, Angus van Grevenbroek, Jan Douwes
Additional tenor - Previn Moore

Strings
1st violins - Ben Mathot (violin solo), Ian de Jong, Sabine Poiesz
2nd violins - Floortje Beijon, Loes Dooren, Vera van der Bie, Marieke de Bruijn
Violas - Mark Mulder (viola solo), Frank Goossens
Celli - René van Munster (celli solo), Geneviève Verhage, Eilidh Martin

Brass
Trumpets - Jurgen van Nijnatten, Marnix Coster
French horns - Henk Veldt, Alex Thyssen
Trombones - Paul Langerman, Lennart de Winter
Bastrombone - Lennart de Winter

Woodwinds
Flute, piccolo & bassoon - Jeroen Goossens
Oboe & oboe d'amore - Thijs Dapper

Ethnic string instruments
Sitar - Jack Pisters
Mandolin, balalaika, bouzouki & ukulele - Isaac Delahaye

Mallets
Glockenspiel, xylophone, tubular bells - Coen Janssen

Percussion
Orchestral snare drum, orchestral toms, timbales, congas, bongos (solo), cymbal a deux - Ariën van Weesenbeek
Orchestral snare drum, orchestral toms, congas, djembé, darbuka, gong, suspended cymbal, tambourine - Igor Hobus
Orchestral toms, djembé, congas, bar chimes, tambourine, triangle - Isaac Delahaye
Orchestral toms, Gran Casa, djembé, congas, finger cymbals, tambourine - Coen Janssen
Additional snare drum - Maarten de Peijper & Joost van den Broek
Percussion instruments generously provided by Adams Music Centre / Drumworld

Additional samples and effects - Coen Janssen & Joost van den Broek

Produced by Joost van den Broek & Epica

Recorded at Sandlane Recording Facilities, Rijen, The Netherlands between December 2015 and May 2016

Sitar recorded at Music Matrix Studio by Brent Langerak, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Paul's voice recorded at Paulyb Studios, Tampa, Florida, USA

Engineered by Joost van den Broek & Jos Driessen

Editing by Jos Driessen & Joost van den Broek

Mixed by Jacob Hansen at Hansen Studios, Ribe, Denmark between May and June 2016

Co-mixed by Joost van den Broek

Mastered by Jacob Hansen at Hansen Studios, Ribe, Denmark in June 2016.

Additional mastering by Darius van Helfteren at Amsterdam Mastering, Amsterdam, The Netherlands in June 2016

All music and lyrics written and arranged by Epica & Joost van den Broek

Vocal lines co-written by Joost van den Broek, Isaac Delahaye, Coen Janssen & Sascha Paeth

Orchestral arrangements by Joost van den Broek, Coen Janssen & Isaac Delahaye

Choir arrangements and scoring by Coen Janssen

Strings scoring by Ben Mathot

Brass and woods scoring by Robin Assen

Additional lyrics and lyrical editing by Coen Janssen

English coach and lyrical advice by Buffi Duberman

Latin translations by Jaap Toorenaar & Gjalt Lucassen

Band photography, art direction and design by Stefan Heilemann / Heilemania

Costume design and styling by I Style Stars / Studio Ingeborg Steenhorst

simone thanks:

my hearts vincent and oliver. you are the loves of my life. my dutch and german family. all my friends that are living close and far away. the band boys, our awesome road and studio crew. my friends and colleagues from bands that we've shared the stage with. the fans for your everlasting loyalty and support! together we are epica! thank you all!

mark thanks:

i would like to thank my sweet beautiful laura & my fantastic parents, my brother René and the macri family for all the heartwarming help and support. my bandmates in epica and the crew for making this all possible, great work everybody!!! also a big thanks to everybody involved in recording and mixing this album. more people than ever before have been working on it to create something beautiful. special thanks to joost for your energy, knowledge and overview. all my close, music and cycling friends from all over the world. wishing you all happiness and good health (some of you need it in these days). see you all in sicily, the netherlands or somewhere else, it's a small world after all ;-) special thanks to gerry, bioracer and the epica cycling team! sharik, luc & johanne and quite some more people who are being of great help and support.thanks everybody @ ibanez for the support over all those years. and... i won't forget about you, who have bought our album(s), visit our shows and be a part of the unique epica family. thanks a lot!!!

isaac thanks:

my love katrien for supporting me along the journey. love you heaps! my family, friends, the studio gang, our awesome crew, daniel & enzo, the gibson family and everyone else involved in the creation of this ep. see you out there!

coen thanks:

my dearest wife linda, cato & pepijn, without you it wouldn't make sense! my supporting family at home. my friends. the band. our crew & management. joost and jos @sandlane. all musicians who played or sang on this album. everybody who contributed to this ep. mario & numotion. olivier & rolandce. atsushi shimizu @roland. tony jansen. all at nb. all friends and bands from the road. all our awesome fans, who support me and my family even outside of music! your support keeps me going!

rob thanks:

angela and my family for their endless support and understanding! my friends all over the world, you know who you are! of course my epica bandmates, management + crew, joost, jos & maarten @ sandlane recording facilities, metal factory eindhoven, sheldon dingwall & dingwall designer guitars, derek brooks & ernie ball usa, hugo villaroel, douglas castro & darkglass electronics, moog music, markus resch & mellotron sweden. paul simons (veur d'n dieke bak).

arjen thanks:

bárbara, my parents, frank & pearl, patrick & amedia/balbex, gabriel & remo, my bandmates, daniel and the crew boyz for making what we do possible, joost & sandlane recording facilities, enrico, nick, dan, all of my buddies, steam for making pc-gaming so cool, bbq pit boys, the peeps from mayan, dragonforce, powerwolf, moonspell, eluveitie, diablo boulevard, voyager, all you dear fans out there for unlimited support - thank you so much!

epica thanks:

markus staiger, jaap wagemaker, gerardo martinez, markus wosgien, kristin torres, timo beisel, yorck eysel, mark palmer, paul-philipp kuhnert & all at nuclear blast. joost van den broek, jos driessen & maarten de peijper. jacob hansen. darius van helfteren. sascha paeth. marcela bovio, linda janssen, cato janssen, maria van nieukerken & kamerkoor pa'dam, ben mathot & all string players, robin assen & all brass players, jeroen goossens, thijs dapper, jack pisters. buffi duberman. gjalt lucassen & jaap toorenaar. daniel regan. enzo marangelli. jeroen brom, paul babikian, erwin van lokeren, bert ploegh, arjan rijnen, igor hobus, eric schoeber, john anderson, aaron patrick, stijn deschacht, René grooney, paul warmerdam & all past and present crew. davide cilloni & eklipse media. jens de vos & panda productions, stefan heilemann, tim & nick tronckoe, peter verplancke & mathieu rogiers, rebecca brayman, benedikt deicke. tony & angel jansen. jeps salfishberger & mojo concerts. enrico koralczak, vivienne frese, björn gralla & contra promotion. dan rozenblum & circle agency. nick peel & miracle artists. frank helmink. paul simons & the rock station. ingeborg steenhorst. richard theuws & merchandise.nl, karim peter & indie merch. jan pellegrom & adbeco. christine fountain. wim schreurs. marcel de vré. ron van hal. robbert tilli. ruben wijga. stephan schultz. adams drumworld. yves, ab & jeroen. all supporting press, endorsers and promoters from around the world. all bands and musicians from the road that lived to tell about our infamous tour (bus) parties!

our beloved legion of fans from all over the world for creating our solace system. we can't thank you enough!

see you out there!

epica management:
daniel regan & enzo marangelli
feat first management

visit **www.epica.nl** for latest news,
tour dates, merchandise and bookings

like epica on facebook: **www.facebook.com/epica**
follow epica on twitter: **www.twitter.com/epica**
watch epica on youtube: **www.youtube.com/epica**
see epica on instagram: **www.instagram.com/epicaofficial**

epica is endorsed by:

1. The Solace System 4:39
2. Fight Your Demons 4:30
3. Architect of Light 5:21
4. Wheel of Destiny 5:52
5. Immortal Melancholy 3:09
6. Decoded Poetry 6:26